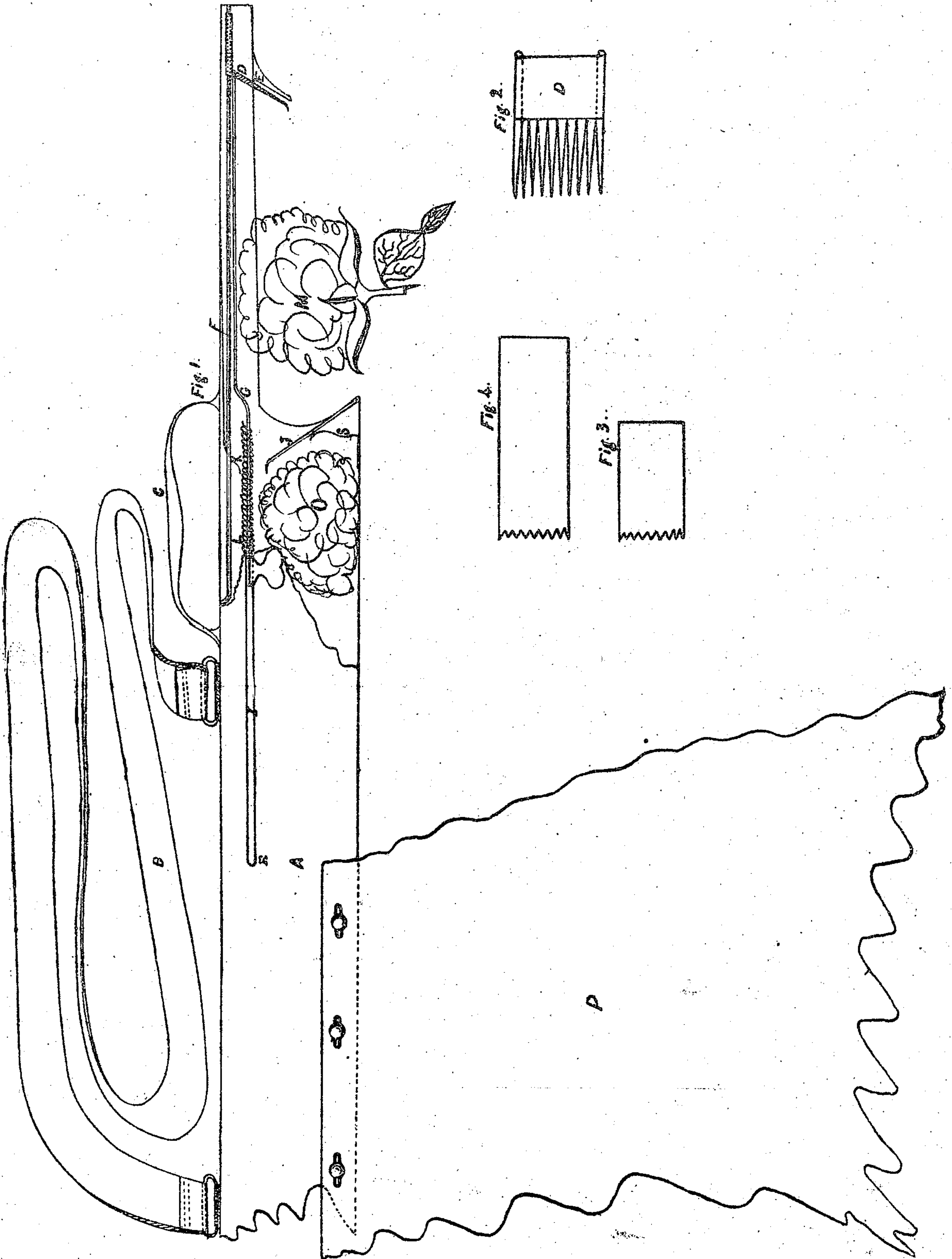


W. D. Ludlow.  
Cotton Harvester.

N<sup>o</sup> 52303

Patented Jan. 30, 1866.



Witnesses.

*Justin P. Herman*  
*J. Bay*

Inventor

*W. D. Ludlow*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

W. D. LUDLOW, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## IMPROVEMENT IN COTTON-PICKERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 52,303, dated January 30, 1866.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM D. LUDLOW, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Machinery for Picking Cotton from the Boll in the Field; and I do hereby declare the following to be a clear, full, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents the complete machine, and Fig. 2 represents a top view of the picking-gate or sliding fingers. Fig. 3 is a top view of the lower stripper, J. Fig. 4 is a top view of the upper stripper, K.

The nature of the invention and its peculiar advantages will be readily understood from the following description.

A is the case, with a fraction of one side cut out to show the works, made of wood, tin, zinc, sheet-iron, or any other suitable material, provided with a strap, B, by which it is suspended from the shoulder under the left arm of the operator, and a handle, C, by which it is held firmly and guided from boll to boll in picking.

D is the picking-gate or sliding fingers which pluck the cotton from the boll when operated.

E is a guard or protection for the fingers D. F is a track or slide on which the picker D is held steady as it is drawn in and passes out. G is a wire by which the picker D is pulled forward on the slide or track F.

H is a knob of handle attached to wire G. I is a slot in the frame or case A, in which H slides. J is the lower stripper; K, the upper stripper, by which all the cotton is taken from the picker and prevented from being carried out again after it has been drawn forward into the case A. S is a spring behind stripper J.

L is a spiral spring to carry the picking-gate or fingers D back to the guard E after the cotton is discharged inside the strippers J and K.

M is a boll of cotton in position ready to be picked as the knob H is drawn back to point X. O is the cotton after it is drawn into the case and discharged behind the strippers J and K.

P is a fraction of the bag attached to the case A, into which the cotton is discharged

continually, as boll after boll is picked, and presses the previous ones through the case to the mouth and into bag P, where they are retained till the bag is full, when it is detached and another one substituted.

The case A is two inches square and about thirty inches long, which is about the diameter of an ordinary cotton tree or bush, so that the operator, without changing his position, may reach any part of the bush and pick the numerous bolls, or in case the bush is low or very high, both of which are often the case, every boll may be reached by the machine without the operator laboriously reaching upward or stooping down.

Cotton picked by hand is much injured by the crushing of boll upon boll in the hand before it is discharged into the bag. Then when separating the cotton from the seed by the gin the fiber is much torn and broken and the staple seriously injured; whereas this machine picks it nicely from the stalk and discharges each tuft carefully in the case, through which it is gently forced along the case into the bag, where it lies lightly and as perfect and uncrushed as when it lay in the boll on the tree.

It is not absolutely essential that the picker D slide on a way—the same result may be obtained in an inferior manner with a swinging picking-gate—nor that so many teeth or fingers be employed on either of the strippers, or the picker-gate or comb.

It is proven by actual test that this machine will do the work of five men, do it better, and save the cotton in a cleaner and more desirable condition.

What I claim as new, and desire to procure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The employment or use for picking cotton from the bolls in the field of the case A, picking gate, comb, or fingers D, and strippers J and K, combined and operating substantially as described.

2. The sliding picker-gate, comb, or fingers D, as set forth.

3. The strippers J and K, as set forth, separate or together.

WM. D. LUDLOW. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

AUSTIN SHERMAN,  
J. E. CARY.